

Good Afternoon

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed legislative changes with regards to Public Benevolent Institutions (PBI) and Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR); however, we believe the consultative process to be flawed, given most Volunteer Fire Brigades would only meet on a monthly basis, and, with only a 20 day consultation period, most will be unable to provide any feedback to either this Association, FESA, or to Treasury directly.

The WA Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services Association (Inc) commenced operations in 1898, to provide Volunteer Fire Brigades (as they were then) with a voice to discuss operational matters with the then WA Fire Brigades Board (now known as Fire & Emergency Services Authority – FESA). This Association now has a membership of 96 Brigades (comprising more than 2000 individuals) spread across the length and breadth of WA, the majority of which are Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service Brigades.

We have had a briefing with FESA, at which time all options were discussed. In considering the implications of this legislation on our Brigades, in particular the treasurers and secretaries, we believe this legislation has the ability to negatively impact on an individual's commitment required to undertake these positions; on top of existing paperwork required to carry out their roles. One possible impact will be that volunteers will not be willing to hold these positions, as the legal implications of this legislation may make an already difficult role less attractive. It is difficult to make particular comment on this issue; however, as there is no information on what administrative tasks will be associated with a Brigade establishing and maintaining a public fund.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and hope that our comments regarding the short consultative period and the potential impact on volunteer brigades are of assistance.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Max Osborn, Association Executive Officer, via this email address, or the postal and phone details below.

Regards

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As Volunteer Firefighters we Do **WHAT** We Can, **WHEN** We Can, **WHERE** We Can, To The **VERY BEST** of Our Ability.